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10/035,402	12/28/2001	Ben B. Wang	14882RRUS01U	3378

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EXAMINER

POLLACK, MELVIN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2145

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/035,402	WANG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Melvin H. Pollack	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>see attached office action</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 8/5/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. An analysis of the arguments is provided below.
2. Applicant argues that Kumar fails to expressly disclose translating the identifier into a group identification representative of a plurality of identifiers (P. 7, lines 23-25). Applicant states that "a unique identifier (38) is appended to the end of the shared fax receipt number... functions as a user ID (P. 6, 2nd Paragraph)." Because the fax receipt number is *shared* by a multitude of users, each with a different unique identifier, it is considered by the examiner to act as a group identifier, with the combination of unique identifier and shared fax number acting as a unique identifier (col. 6, line 38 – col. 7, line 20). For example, person A may have the full number (123) 555-6789 0001, person B may have the number (123) 555-6789 0002, and person C may have the full number (123) 555-6784 0001. Person A and Person B share the same group number, and thus both identifiers (full numbers) are mapped to the same group number. Likewise, the group number mapping ensures that person A is not confused with person C.
3. It is true that the identifiers are mapped as a one-to-one ratio to a users communication address, but it is also mapped to the shared fax number. Indeed, the group number is used to determine which node to send the address. For person A, the group number is used to send the message to a first node of the network (Fig. 1, #18; col. 7, lines 5-20), and the first node then uses the user ID to send the message to person A (col. 7, lines 20-40). For person C, with a different identifier, the message would be sent to a second, different node (Fig. 1, #18', not

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shown). Thus, the mapping of the identifier to the group identifier (by dropping the user ID) is clear and necessary for operation of Kumar.

4. Furthermore, Kumar describes a second embodiment in which the user ID is mapped to a group location wherein multiple users may access the location (col. 10, lines 5-30). Thus a secondary group identification has been described, and this identification would have mapping and indexing functions similar to that of a unique identifier.

5. As to indexing (P. 7, lines 31-32; P. 8, lines 32-35) and mapping (P. 9, lines 12—13), they have been described above as well. Further, the indexing of group identifiers is used to determine the indexed table of unique identifiers (col. 9, lines 5-30).

6. For the reasons above, the rejection is maintained and therefore made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kumar et al. (6,240,445).

9. For claims 1 and 8, Kumar teaches a method (abstract) of addressing (col. 1, line 1 – col. 4, line 10) a node (Fig. 1, #24) in a network (Fig. 1, #22), comprising:

a. Reading (col. 6, lines 40-60) an identifier (Fig. 2, #38 and #30);

- b. Translating the identifier (Fig. 3) into a group identification representative of a plurality of identifiers (Fig. 2, #30);
 - c. Indexing an address table (col. 7, lines 10-30 and 60-65; col. 9, lines 5-30) with the group identification (Fig. 7, #110); and
 - d. Mapping the group identification (Fig. 6) to a first node of the network (Fig. 2, #18).
10. For claims 2 and 14, Kumar teaches that wherein translating the identifier into a group identification further comprises translating the identifier into one of a plurality of group identifications (col. 7, lines 10-30).
11. For claim 3, Kumar teaches that indexing an address table with the group identification further comprises indexing a record of the table (Fig. 7, #110) having a field element corresponding to the group identification (Fig. 6).
12. For claims 4 and 15, Kumar teaches that wherein mapping the group identification to a first node further comprises mapping the group identification to a first node of a plurality of nodes of the network (Fig. 7, #112; col. 9, lines 5-10; col. 9, line 65 – col. 10, line 5).
13. For claim 5, Kumar teaches that reading an identifier further comprises reading a text-based identifier (col. 10, line 5).
14. For claim 7, Kumar teaches that translating the identifier into a group identification (Fig. 3) further comprises translating the identifier into a numerical-based group identification (Fig. 2).
15. Claim 10 is drawn to the limitations in claims 5 and 7. Therefore, since claims 5 and 7 are rejected, claim 10 is also rejected for the reasons above.

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16. For claim 11, Kumar teaches that the translation module is operable to translate a plurality of identifiers into a common group identification (col. 4, line 59 – col. 5, line 15).

17. For claim 12, Kumar teaches that a processing element (Fig. 1, #18) and a memory module maintaining the translation module maintained by the memory module as an instruction set executable by the processing element (Fig. 5; col. 8, lines 15-20). (These items are inherent as they are required for the system #18 to properly function.)

18. For claim 13, Kumar teaches that the identifier is included in a message received by the message distributor (col. 6, lines 40-65), the message routed to the processing node by the message distributor upon indexing of the record (col. 7, lines 60-65).

19. For claim 16, Kumar teaches that the second address is equivalent to the first address (Fig. 2, #30).

20. For claim 17, Kumar teaches that the second address is different than the first address (col. 7, lines 23-25).

21. For claim 18, Kumar teaches an interface (Fig. 5, #50) with a plurality of processing nodes (Fig. 1, #24-29).

22. For claim 19, Kumar teaches that the interface is a network interface (Fig. 1, #22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

23. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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24. Claims 6, 9, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar as applied to claims 1, 8, 18 above, and further in view of Michels et al. (6,161,144).

25. For claims 6 and 9, Kumar does not expressly disclose that translating the identifier further comprises translating the identifier by a hashing function. Michels teaches a method and system (abstract) of performing high speed routing through efficient lookup tables (col. 1, line 1 – col. 2, line 50) that further moves traffic to desired nodes grouped together (col. 2, line 50 – col. 3, line 60) through the use of lookup tables (Figs. 4A, 5, 9). Michels further teaches that hash searches may be used (col. 11, lines 20-23). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used Michels hash search method (col. 9, lines 20-30) in Kumar in order to boost search efficiencies and more specifically to allow multiple searches per clock cycle (col. 3, lines 20-45).

26. For claim 20, Kumar does not expressly disclose that the interface is an address bus of the message distributor. Michels teaches an interface (Fig. 3, #76) that connects to bus logic (col. 6, lines 42-47; col. 7, lines 25-27). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used Michels bus arbitration scheme in Kumar in order to allow simplified shard fax networks (col. 1, lines 25-30).

Conclusion

27. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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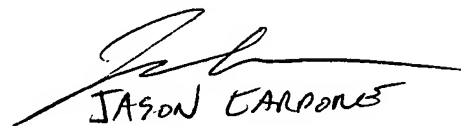
the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H. Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MHP
25 October 2005


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